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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

HON. JOSEPH C. LORIGO
LEGISLATOR

January 16, 2013

Hon. Betty Jean Grant
Chairperson of the Legislature
92 Franklin Street
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Special Session Request

Dear Chairperson Grant:

This morning I woke to the expected news that The Buffalo News has filed a freedom of information request with Erie County Clerk Christopher L. Jacobs's Office seeking the names and addresses of all pistol permit holders within the county. In my opinion, it would be difficult to find the words to characterize this request as necessary, and as a representative body we have an obligation to do what we can to stop it.

I cannot fathom any good coming from anyone other than the County Clerk having this list. Once the list is released from the county's possession it is impossible for us to control what the information will be used for in the future, regardless of anyone's present intentions.

If this list were to fall into the hands of an irresponsible actor, it could place thousands of law-abiding families at risk for burglary, harassment and potential harm. It could also place many more non-gun owners at risk of home invasion and harm. Inaction on our part could put pistol permit holders on display, portrayed in a negative light, simply because they followed the law when acquiring their firearm.

As legislators, we have a moral responsibility to prevent that, and I want to do my part.

As you are aware, on the opening session of the year I suspended a resolution into the public record (Intro. 1-2 2013) that will delay and hopefully block the county's compliance with the request. Under your direction, the resolution was appropriately sent to the Public Safety Committee of the Legislature for further discussion. Last week, the Public Safety Committee meeting, scheduled for tomorrow, was cancelled due to an unavoidable conflict.

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As of today, the County Clerk has a pending request that is potentially harmful to many of our constituents and we have a resolution that may provide them some peace of mind. Unfortunately, we do not have a meeting scheduled until the 24th of January, and I don't believe this matter can wait.

I am respectfully requesting that our honorable body enter into special session to approve (Intro. 1-2 2013) or that a Public Safety meeting be called within the next 24 hours to facilitate its approval and inclusion in a committee report that would be actionable for ratification at our regularly scheduled session on the 24th.

Thank you for your consideration of my request. I look forward to hearing back from you shortly.

Sincerely,

JOSEPH C. LORIGO
District 10 Legislator

CC:
Hon. John J. Mills
Minority Leader

Hon. Thomas J. Mazur
Majority Leader

Hon. Timothy Hogues
Public Safety Committee, Chairman

Robert M. Graber
Clerk of the Legislature

Hon. Christopher L. Jacobs
Erie County Clerk